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US ~~Oor~~ Oor

~~'Me an ma~~ **Wormies #1'** ('Me and my Worms', in Scots using a diminutive term for the anglicised term *verme*), a cute familiar way to speak of *my posse*, *my gang* with whom I have a more-than-human ongoing relationship, living and working in cooperation as they process my organic, raw consumption waste.

Known more scientifically as ***Eisenia fetida*** - or commonly in English as 'manure worms', 'redworms' or even 'red wrigglers' - they are a species of ringed-segment earthworm that has adapted itself to decaying organic materials.

Like other earthworms they are hermaphroditic, can be uniparental, but usually fertilise each other.

NB: *Eisenia fetida* are *epigean*, i.e. they live mostly above the surface of the soil, rarely found within the ground itself.

they taste through their skin!

Native Europeans introduced intentionally and unintentionally

Charles Darwin, who was not famous for his ideas on cooperation in the natural world but natural selection competition, **wrote in 1904 about manure worms, "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly organized creatures".**

To every continent except Antarctica

Darwin, C. (1905). The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the action of worms with observations on their habits. Accessible as ebook via Project Gutenberg. Release Date: December 1, 1999 [eBook #2355]

compost worms live on the surface! Not deep in soil

Gathering of materials to make worm bins (bin containers, carbon + nitrogen -based matter):

__Bin Containers:__

Plastic composting bins (e.g. 10 or 15 L) which can nest and stack within each other. Aim to start with 5 bins, working up to max 10 ?

__e.g. Carbon:__ Glue-free paper, cardboard, toilet rolls, paper-based egg boxes, dried cut grasses & leaves that are 'brown or yellow'

__e.g. Nitrogen:__ Coffee grinds, onion skins, vegetable peels, & fruit peels or flesh that is over ripe, banana skins, wild plants that are 'green'

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#vermiselfie

IG: [redacted]

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Advance work & consideration for residency:

Consider local youth groups, urban gardeners & compost enthusiasts, vegetarian community kitchens where you live. Youth target age group: 14-20 years; participant numbers per session: 2-16 maximum

They (participants, stakeholders) will gain:

- Basic understanding of composting, including vermicomposting
- Processed-based arts which are based in ecosystem & circular-economy thinking
- Recycling and upcycling concepts in relation to cultural arts organisation waste & food prep. waste
- Dadaist (collage, assemblage, cut-paste) aesthetics in the contemporary everyday life
- Reflections on Instagram 'influencer' social media culture

I've been vermicomposting at home for 6+ years

from 2016–2022 each time I added to the compost I posted to Instagram

Potential schedule

Day 1-2: Set up space for vermicomposting for 2-3 weeks.

Day 3-5: Gather, process, mix carbon + nitrogen -based matter in public diary / social media

Day 6: Invite youth groups, learn basic composting, getting hands dirty, taking new IG images

Day 7: Print with risograph & prepare vermicompost materials to intra-act for 1 or 2 weeks

Inter-residency pause for 1-2 weeks

I use hashtags. Describe or give hint to what's in the image, weaving a variety of images of fingers, skin, environment, kitchen..

Day 8-9: Set up space for documenting compost for 1 week

Day 10-11: Gather, process, mix carbon + nitrogen -based matter in public diary / social media

Day 12-13: Print & recycle with youth groups, getting hands dirty, taking new IG images

Day 14: Distribute out other materials, and give away vermicompost to continue developing as humus

home-life & so on...

SOIL PRESENTS, PAST(S), & FUTURE(S)

ZINE STYLE: RANDOM + INSPIRATION FROM: ADELPHI, HULL & KIITOS LISA ROBERTS! UK

A well managed vermicompost, which would be attended to by the invigilating artist, would not smell too 'fetid' (or fowl), but like humus, hopefully rehabilitating the reputation of vermicomposting among the visiting public.

Piles of compost can be worked with on the floor also, on top of plastic sheeting, but it is better that the compost bins are used when not examining the bins so that the *Eisenia fetida* are mostly in the dark, or can escape to a darker area.

#TTT2023 #RAWCOOKEDROTTEN